

## REMARKS

In the above-identified application the claims were all rejected as being obvious in view of the cited Kuchta, Bell, Nakano, and Yamagata patents. By this response, however, the claims have been amended and are believed to be patentable over the cited references for the reasons given below.

In particular, amended independent Claims 1, 12 and 23 require the features of now-cancelled Claims 5, 16 and 27, respectively. That is, the amended independent claims each require that an image pickup apparatus of the present invention is arranged so as to display, on a display screen, low-resolution image data of a series of picked-up frames. The image data is stored in an internal memory, to be selected by a user's selection operation and to compress and encode high-resolution image data corresponding to the selected low-resolution image data at a changed compression ratio to transfer the compressed and encoded high-resolution image data to an external memory (e.g., Fig.1, and page 14 line 12 to page 15, line 27). That is, according to the present invention, a user can select desired-resolution image data from image data of a series of picked-up frames which are obtained by consecutively picking up an object image. In addition, the user can also select a compression ratio of the selected image data when the data is transferred to an external memory, thereby saving memory area.

These above-characterized claim requirements of the present invention are not disclosed in the cited references. That is, although the Office Action suggests that the references, other than Yamagata, fail to disclose the steps of re-compressing and re-encoding selected image data at varying compression ratios and storing the re-compressed and re-encoded image data in a memory, Yamagata also fails to make such a

disclosure. Instead, Yamagata discloses an image data re-compression device which is arranged to read out image data stored in an external memory (IC memory card M) to select image data and re-compress the selected image data. This re-compression takes place to obtain a space the image data already stored in the external memory is full. Accordingly, in Yamagata the image data already stored in the external memory is re-compressed, as stated in the Office Action (page 7), and therefore Yamagata fails to disclose a change in compression ratio of image data, which is re-read out from an internal memory to be transferred to an external memory, and fails to disclose a compression of the image data at the changed compression ratio before it is stored into the external memory.

In view of the above, Applicants solicit the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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